United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Illinois Indiana
Michigan Minnesota
Ohio Wisconsin

U.S. EPA Recommends Change in Soil Cleanup Decision

Fisher-Calo Superfund Site

La Porte County, Indiana
August 1997

Public Comment Period

U.S. EPA will accept written comments on its recommendation to change the cleanup decision for soil contamination at the Fisher-Calo Superfund Site during a public comment period:

Date: August 25 through September 23, 1997

Public Meeting

U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting to explain its recommendation. Oral and written comments will be accepted at the meeting.

Date: Tuesday, September 16, 1997
Time: 7-9 p.m.
Place: Swanson Activity Center
910 State Street
La Porte

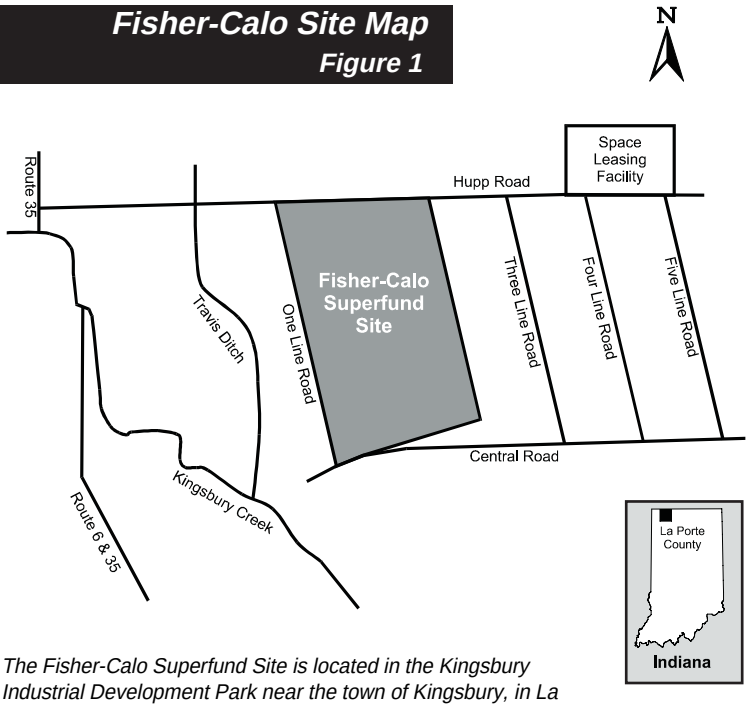
Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), proposes changes to the cleanup remedy described in the August 1990 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Fisher-Calo Superfund Site (Figure 1) in La Porte County, Indiana.[1] These changes relate to the soil portion of the site remedy; the groundwater remedy remains primarily the same as described in the 1990 ROD.

This fact sheet presents U.S. EPA's recommendation and the major components of the 1990 ROD. It also presents site background information, a summary of site risks, and an update on the progress to date in cleaning up the Fisher-Calo site. More detailed information is available at site information repositories at the La Porte Public Library and La Porte County Health Department.

Your Opinion Counts!
U.S. EPA and IDEM welcome your comments about recommended changes to the Fisher-Calo site cleanup plan. Public comments will be considered by the agencies before changes are made to the 1990 ROD.

Fisher-Calo Site Map
Figure 1



The Fisher-Calo Superfund Site is located in the Kingsbury Industrial Development Park near the town of Kingsbury, in La Porte County, Indiana. Industrial land surrounds most of the site. Southwest of the site are several residential areas, including King's Court Trailer Park and the villages of Tracy and Kingsford Heights.

[1] *Section 300.515(e) of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) requires publication of a notice, a public comment period, and a fact sheet for public distribution that presents U.S. EPA's recommendation for an amendment to a site cleanup decision. This fact sheet summarizes information available at the site information repositories and in the site Administrative Record.*

Background

The Fisher-Calo Superfund Site is located in the Kingsbury Industrial Development Park near the town of Kingsbury, in La Porte County, Indiana. The Kingsbury Industrial Development Park was originally known as the U.S. Military Kingsbury Ordnance Plant. After the plant closed in the 1960s, a private party purchased the property and subdivided part of it to form the Kingsbury Industrial Development Park.

In 1971, Fisher-Calo Chemical and Solvents Corporation purchased this land (about 250 acres) and operated a facility on part of it and leased the rest to other operators. The Fisher-Calo Superfund Site includes this 250 acres and another separate location in the Kingsbury Industrial Park, known as Space Leasing.

Fisher-Calo Chemical and Solvents Corporation processed and distributed solvents, metal finishing supplies, and other industrial chemicals. The Corporation accepted various chemicals and wastes, stored them in metals drums, and stockpiled the drums at various places on their property. Many businesses that leased land from the Fisher-Calo Corporation processed industrial chemicals.

Environmental investigations determined that the Fisher-Calo site contained four contaminated soil areas, two other areas with about 3,500 buried drums, and four groundwater plumes. Two of the contaminated soil areas contained volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), the third soil area contained only VOCs, and the fourth area was contaminated with SVOCs and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The buried drum area on the Fisher-Calo property was contaminated with VOCs and SVOCs, while the buried drum area at Space Leasing was contaminated with VOCs. Three of the ground-water plumes were found beneath Fisher-Calo Corporation property; the fourth plume is under Space Leasing.

Summary of Site Risks

The primary potential public health risk at the Fisher-Calo site is exposure to contaminated ground water through a drinking water supply. Nearby residents are not now at risk from the four ground-water plumes because a comprehensive groundwater monitoring system is in place to assure the safety of public drinking water. However, a potential future risk exists because residents from Kingsbury and other areas southwest of the site receive their drinking water from production wells located on or near the Kingsbury Industrial Park.

Other potential public health risks involve exposure through touching, breathing in, or ingesting contaminants in the four contaminated soil areas and two buried drum areas. These potential health risks, however, are minimal because these areas are remote, fenced, industrial locations, and all buried drums and PCB-contaminated soil have been excavated and disposed of off site.

Original 1990 Remedy

In 1990, U.S. EPA signed a document called a record of decision, authorizing a cleanup remedy for the Fisher-Calo site. This remedy included the following major components:

•Soil excavation and incineration of PCB and SVOC contaminated soils.
•Soil flushing or soil vapor extraction of VOC contaminated soils.
•Ground-water extraction, treatment, and reinjection of contaminated ground water created from site hazardous chemicals.
•Replacement of a previously shut down production well in Kingsbury Industrial Park.
•Investigation of two buried drum areas on site, followed by excavation and disposal of drums.
•Comprehensive program of monitoring of contaminated soil, ground water, and other site materials to ensure public health and safety.
•Site fencing and security of contaminated soil areas.

Cleanup Progress to Date

The following components of the 1990 cleanup decision have been implemented:
•A soil vapor extraction (SVE) system at a VOC contaminated soil area.
•Excavation and off-site disposal of PCB-contaminated soils.
•Investigation of buried drums, followed by drum excavation and off-site disposal.
•Off-site disposal of surface drums and containers.
•Comprehensive site monitoring program to assure public health and safety.
•Site fencing of contaminated soil areas.

The Next Step

U.S. EPA and IDEM will consider public comments received during the public comment period before making changes to the Fisher-Calo site cleanup remedy. After the decision is made, the remedy will be designed and implemented under the oversight of the U.S. EPA and IDEM.

Public Comment Sheet

Your input on the recommended changes to the cleanup remedy for the Fisher-Calo Superfund Site is important to U.S. EPA and IDEM. Comments provided by the public help U.S. EPA and IDEM make decisions about the site.

You may use the space below to write your comments, then fold and mail. Comments must be postmarked on or before September 23, 1997. If you have questions about the public comment period, please contact Derrick Kimbrough at 312-886-9749 or at U.S. EPA's toll-free number: 1-800-621-8431. You may also submit comments to U.S. EPA via the Internet at the following address: kimbrough.derrick@epamail.epa.gov

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

State:_____Zip:_____

Fisher-Calo Superfund Site

Public Comment Sheet

Fold on Dashed Lines, Staple, Stamp, and Mail

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____

Zip_____

Place Stamp Here

Derrick Kimbrough (P-19J)
Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

Comparison of Proposed Changes to 1990 ROD

1990 ROD	Proposed Changes
Excavation and incineration of PCBs and SVOC contaminated soils.	Bioremediation of SVOCs and off-site disposal of PCB contaminated soils.
Soil flushing or soil vapor extraction to treat VOC contaminated soils.	Soil vapor extraction to treat VOC contaminated soils.
Extraction, treatment, and reinjection of treated ground water.	Extraction, treatment, and discharge of treated ground water to Travis Ditch.

Evaluation Criteria

U.S. EPA and IDEM used the following nine criteria to evaluate changes to the 1990 cleanup plan for the Fisher-Calo site:

1. Overall Protection of Human Health and the Environment determines whether a remedy eliminates, reduces, or controls threats to public health and the environment through institutional controls, engineering controls, or treatment.

2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) evaluates whether a remedy meets federal and state environmental statutes, regulations, and other requirements that pertain to the site or whether a waiver is justified.

3. Long-Term Effectiveness and Permanence considers the ability of a remedy to maintain protection of human health and the environment over time and the reliability of such protection.

4. Reduction of Contaminant Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume Through Treatment evaluates a remedy's use of treatment to reduce the harmful effects of principal contaminants, their ability to move in the environment, and the amount of contamination present.

5. Short-Term Effectiveness considers the length of time needed to implement a remedy and the risks the remedy poses to workers, residents, and the environment during implementation.

6. Implementability considers the technical and administrative feasibility of implementing the remedy, such as relative availability of goods and services.

7. Cost includes estimated capital and operation and maintenance costs, as well as present worth costs. Present worth cost is the total cost of a remedy over time in terms of today's dollars.

8. State Acceptance considers whether IDEM agrees with U.S. EPA's analyses and recommendation for changes in the 1990 cleanup decision.

9. Community Acceptance will be assessed in the ROD amendment. Public comments and U.S. EPA responses to those comments will be presented in the decision document. Community acceptance of the recommended changes in the cleanup decision will be evaluated after the public comment period and before the amended ROD is issued.

Evaluation Table

Evaluation Criteria	1990 ROD	Proposed Remedy
1. Overall Protection of Health & Environment	■	■
2. Compliance with ARARs	■	■
3. Long-term Effectiveness and Permanence	■	■
4. Reduction of Toxicity, Mobility, or Volume through Treatment	❖	❖
5. Short-Term Effectiveness	❖	❖
6. Implementability	■	■
7. Cost	$31.7 Million	$30 Million
8. Support Agency Acceptance	❖	■
9. Community Acceptance	❖	Based on evaluation of public comments

■ - Fully meets criteria ❖ - Partially meets criteria
□ - Does not meet criteria NA - Not Applicable

U.S. EPA Recommendation

U.S. EPA, in cooperation with IDEM, recommends fundamental changes to the soil cleanup remedy for the Fisher-Calo site. These changes mostly pertain to soil areas contaminated with SVOCs and PCBs. The most fundamental change proposed is to use bioremediation to treat SVOC contaminated soils because the PCB soils have been excavated and disposed of off site. Bioremediation consists of using air injection wells beneath the SVOC contaminated areas and combining this process with soil vapor extraction. Bioremediation, in combination with soil vapor extraction, has been shown to be an effective remedy for SVOC contaminated soils such as those at the Fisher-Calo site.

U.S. EPA also recommends several other changes in the 1990 remedy:

- Disposal of PCB contaminated soils off site instead of treating them on site. Disposal of PCB soils was done off site because of the low volume involved.
- Soil vapor extraction instead of soil flushing to treat VOC contaminated soils.
- Discharge of treated ground water to Travis Ditch rather than reinjection back into the ground water.

U.S. EPA's recommended changes to the 1990 cleanup remedy for the Fisher-Calo site will provide a remedy that is more easily implemented, more cost effective, and as effective and protective of human health and the environment as the original remedy. In addition, when possible and practical, as is the case at the Fisher-Calo site, bioremediation is preferred over incineration as a soil cleanup remedy.

Additional Information

U.S. EPA and IDEM invite anyone interested in learning more about the Fisher-Calo site to visit the information repositories maintained at the following locations:

La Porte Public Library
904 Indiana Avenue
La Porte

La Porte County Health Department
Administrator's Office
County Complex
Courthouse Square
La Porte

An Administrative Record file, which contains the information that is the basis for site cleanup decisions, has been established at the La Porte Public Library and the U.S. EPA Region 5 office in Chicago.

For further information on the Fisher-Calo site, please contact:

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